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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

USSR

SUBJECT

Analysis Of Soviet Research On Autoallergy

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"USSR Work On Autoallergic Reactions And On Their  
Significance In Pathology", by M Z Sigal, Uspekhi Sovremennoy Biologii,  
Vol 33, No 3, pages 409-30, May-June 1952

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1. The partial translation which leaves out US and UK references does show certain gross negligence on the part of the author in understanding the history of Western microbiology. Specifically M Z Sigal cites the work of A D Ado (1951), a US scientist, as indicating certain revisions in microbiological thinking regarding foreign agents or chemicals which are capable of combining with the skin. This concept has been well-known for over 40 years in the US, and there is considerable research in this field prior to the work of Ado. the author is unfamiliar with the past 40 years of progress in the field by citing Ado as original. Sigal should have given far more basic references to this development.

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2. Throughout the paper Sigal's statements are entirely devoid of a critical attitude and he never passes judgment on the work in the field as an author should. Sigal's paper is no more than a tabulation of selected material without complete references or evaluation. Specifically, Sigal cites the work of P F Zdrovokhkiy (1950) on the discovery "that the contents of artificial hematomas act as autoantigens in rams". This is an extremely interesting discovery and very important -- if correct.
3. In discussing the work of B Shklyar (1950) and F A Mikhaylov (1948) on autoagglutination, Sigal fails to mention the most striking advancement in the field, namely a condition known as autoimmune haemolytic anemia wherein antibodies are built up against their own blood cells and anemia results. Failure to mention this progress is apparently gross ignorance on the part of the author.
4. Sigal also mentions the antigenic properties in certain infectious diseases (namely TB) but neglects any consideration of the similar properties of syphilis which is the best example of the occurrence. It is a question

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whether Sigal is purposely omitting pertinent data or the omission results from ignorance.

5. The reference to F Shuts (1936) concerning the allergic reaction related to skin burn is most unique, and very important if correct. There has been much research in the US on related matters regarding temperature but not necessarily skin burn.
6. The reference to Zil'ber's (1950) work on skin tumors has been investigated quite extensively in the US, but there has never been any evidence to support his thesis.
7. The underlying thought concerning this paper is that there is not enough detail to give a definitive answer to the subject covered. Much research is necessary on the original references and there is considerable difficulty connected with some of the experiments noted. If the paper were completely true, it would be most important, but I am dubious as to its validity at this time.

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